

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-13 /077 W

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R 291014Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7399

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USUN NY 2035

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 11072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IN, KN, KS

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO INIANS ON KOREA

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 10826, (B) NEW DELHI 10854

1. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR SUZUKI SAW MEA SECRETARY (EAST)

VELLODI JULY 26 AND FONSEC MEHTA JULY 27 AS NOTED REF B.

JAPANESE EMBOFF BRIEFED EMBOFF JULY 29 ON CONVERSATIONS.

2. VELLODI TOLD SUZUKI THAT GOI POSITION WAS TO ENCOURAGE DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA WITHOUT ANY OUT-SIDE INTERFERENCE. IT THUS COULD NOT SUPPORT EITHER NORTH KOREAN PROPOSAL FOR DIRECT BILATERAL TALKS WITH USG OVER THE HEAD OF THE ROK AND SECY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL FOR FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE. SUZUKI POINTED OUT THAT IT HAD BEEN THE DPRK WHICH HAD PREVENTED FURTHER BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AFTER 1973 WITH THE ROK AND ASKED WHETHER GIVEN THE GOI'S VIEWS, INDIA COULD NOT URGE NORTH KOREA TO RENEW BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA. VELLODI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ANNUAL UN EXERCISE WAS USELESS BUT OFFERED NO SPECIFIC COMMENT ON SUZUKI'S QUERY OTHER THAN THAT HE WOULD REFER IT TO HIS SUPERIORS.

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3. FONSEC MEHTA EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE U.S. INITIATIVE FOR A FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE WAS A TACTICAL MOVE AIMED AT FORESTALLING DPRK MOVES AT THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. HE THOUGHT THE USG MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT THE DPRK WOULD REJECT THE PROPOSAL, AND HE REAFFIRMED VELLODI'S COMMENT THE PREVIOUS DAY THAT THE GOI COULD NOT SUPPORT THE SECRETARY'S INITIATIVE. SUZUKI AGAIN REPEATED HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE GOI PRESS NORTH KOREA TO RENEW BILATERAL TALKS WITH SOUTH KOREA. MEHTA REPLIED ONLY THAT INDIA WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD AT THE NAC BUT THAT INDIA WAS NOT WHAT IT HAD BEEN IN NEHRU'S ERA AND INDIAN INFLUENCE IN THE NAM SHOULD NOT BE OVERESTIMATED.

4. JAPANESE EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT HIS EMBASSY HAD FOUND THAT, ASIDE FROM THE US EMBASSY, ONLY NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION HAD RECEIVED ANY INSTRUCTIONS FROM ITS GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT JAPANESE APPROACH TO GOI ON KOREAN ISSUE. OTHER MEMBERS OF "CORE" GROUP WERE UNINFORMED AND JAPANESE THOUGHT IT WAS UNLIKELY THEY WOULD MAKE ANY APPROACH TO GOI.

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